

I am appalled by the cowardice and lack of leadership that Michael Powell displayed in his recent decision to look the other way while Sinclair Broadcasting forces their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the November 2nd election. This is a blatant attempt to manipulate the presidential election of the United States, and a clear example of the dangers of ever-escalating media consolidation in this country under his watch.

I am reminded of Mr. Powell's comment that "noone in America watches network television anymore anyway... everyone watches cable" and find it astonishing that someone so out of touch should be presiding over one of our country's most important public assets.

For Mr. Powell's information, Sinclair Broadcasting reaches 1 in every 4 households in the United States.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them, and why we need informed, and courageous leadership at the FCC which is committed to the preservation of both our democracy and our airwaves.